

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 1998  
AT 1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Sneller, Eric Jackson, Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Provost Robert Stirling, Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, Jimmy Boyd and Tommy Farrell.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Des Tierney, Director of Commercial Operations; Bill Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Bill McKenzie, Senior Depute Director of Commercial Operations; Alex McPhee, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; Alan McDougall, Depute Director of Social Work; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; David Mitchell, Acting Head of Legal Services; Ian Arnott, Chief Accountant; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGY:** Councillor Daniel Coffey.

**CHAIR:** Councillor David Sneller, Chair.

**DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 – GENERAL SERVICES (Item 1, Page 2836)**

1. There was submitted a joint report dated 14 January 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of the Committee of the Draft Estimates 1998/99 for General Services which complied with the Secretary of State's anticipated capping level, and which would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to the declaration of the Council (Band 'D' equivalent) on 5 March 1998.

The Senior Depute Director of Finance reported that the total capping level amounted to £132.497m and that the revised expenditure level amounting to £137.423m against the capping level resulted in a requirement for cuts totalling £4.926m.

There was also submitted a report dated 22 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which provided late information in connection with the Draft Estimates which recommended that the Committee consider abatements of £300,000 to the proposed cuts package in light of additional income available to the Council as a result of the introduction of a scheme to replace nursery vouchers.

**Public Consultation and Timetable for Committee and Council Consideration**

It was agreed to approve the timetable for public consultation as detailed in Section 2 of the report and to note the timetable for Committees and the Council as detailed in Section 3 of the report.

### **General Services Draft Estimates 1998/99**

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved approval, as a basis for consultation, the estimates together with growth and cuts packages as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report with the following amendments:-:

#### Appendix 2 – Cuts Package ‘A’ List

##### Education

Options 20 and 21 being in respect of Community Education Voluntary Organisation Grants and Schools Sector school transport respectively, to be removed from the Cuts Package ‘A’ list and be included in the ‘B’ list.

##### Community Services

Options 27 and 28 being in respect of Libraries and Leisure to be removed from the Cuts Package ‘A’ list and be included in the ‘B’ list.

##### Development Services

Option 13 in the provisional Cuts Package ‘A’ list in respect of footways resurfacing – Phase 1 (Commercial Operations) to have a revised figure of £15,000 and that an option be included in the provisional Cuts Package ‘B’ list for footways resurfacing – Phase 1 (Commercial Operations) at a figure of £40,000.

Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment to note the estimates and that the Council should seek an urgent meeting with the Scottish Office to discuss the cash crisis which the Council faces and meantime reject the Tory budgets for Scottish Local Authorities.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 13 votes to 4.

It was also agreed to recommend to Council approval of the restructuring proposals outlined in Appendix 3 of the report, including the establishment of a Member/Officer Group on school janitorial services, and that implementation reports be presented to the appropriate Committees.

The report was otherwise noted.

Councillor Ross left the meeting at this point.

### **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 1997/98 – VOID CONTROL (Item 3, Page 2838)**

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 14 January 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Housing which summarised the current position in respect of void rents.

### **DRAFT ESTIMATES 1998/99 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (Item 3, Page 2838)**

3. There was submitted a joint report dated 14 January 1998 (circulated) by the Directors of Housing and of Finance which sought, as a basis for consultation only at this stage, the approval of the Draft Estimates 1998/99 for the Housing Revenue Account which would enable the Council to embark on a public consultation exercise prior to agreeing the level at which Council house rents and other charges would be levied for the financial year 1998/99 on 10 February 1998.

There was also submitted (circulated) a table showing the proposed Three Year Capital Programme 1998/2001 outlining expenditure on the House Warming 2000 Initiative which would ensure, among other things, that all Council houses would have uPVC replacement windows and a modern central heating system of the tenant's choice by 1 January 2000.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved approval as a basis for consultation the estimates together with the growth and cuts packages as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved as an amendment agreement in principle to House Warming 2000 Initiative and to seek an urgent meeting with the Scottish Office to discuss the fall in the Council's financial allocation and to note meantime the proposed estimates.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 12 votes to 4.

The meeting terminated at 1455 hrs.